

## Resolution on Climate Change

The Board of Hebrew Tabernacle endorses these principles from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and this excerpt from the Climate Change resolution at the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial Conference in 2017:

### The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism – Environment & Climate Change

<https://rac.org/issues/environment-and-climate-change>

“The Reform Movement is committed to protecting the environment and ensuring a just, healthy, and safe future for generations to come. The science is clear: global climate change and pollution threaten our planet and endanger our communities. We have a sacred responsibility to care for the Earth and its inhabitants by advocating for sustainable policies addressing climate change, promoting clean air and water, and protecting wildlife. In doing this work, we must also ensure environmental justice, protecting those who have been disproportionately impacted by climate change and advocating for a just transition away from fossil fuels. Through our environmental advocacy, we carry on a Jewish tradition of stewardship and partnership in the ongoing work of Creation dating back to Genesis.

### *Why Should Jews Care?*

The Torah teaches that humankind was created on Earth, in part, to care for and protect God’s creation (Genesis 2:15). The Talmudic concept of *bal tashchit*, “do not destroy,” was developed by the rabbis as an assertion of God’s holy ownership of the land. We show our commitment to Creation and to each other by preventing the destruction and degradation of our planet. As is said in a powerful Midrash, “Do not destroy My world, for if you do, there will be nobody after you to make it right again.” (Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13). It is our responsibility to preserve, protect, and nourish our planet. We have the power to take action to create a healthy and just future for ourselves and generations to come.”

### Resolution on Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change – URJ Biennial 2017

<https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-addressing-impacts-climate-change>

“...In Genesis (9:15-16) God promises not to destroy the earth by flood, stating, “I will remember My covenant between Me and you and every living creature among all flesh, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.” God does not, however, preclude the possibility that humanity, by our own shortsighted behaviors, may destroy the earth by flood or other means. Today, our careless disregard for the environmental impact of our actions has set us on a path that is damaging and could ultimately harm human health and desolate our planet. The devastation wrought by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and by the severe droughts, floods, and wildfires in California and other states and provinces, illustrates the ways in which climate change, caused in significant part by human behavior, is destroying homes, communities, and human lives....

### *Therefore, the Union for Reform Judaism Resolves to:*

Encourage congregations to advocate from the local to federal levels of government to uphold or go beyond the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement;

Encourage congregations to:...

Continue to advocate for legislative, regulatory, and judicial action to protect all communities from the damaging impacts of climate change;...

Continue to advocate for the...U.S. government to uphold our international responsibilities to decrease the human impacts of climate change; and

Encourage congregations to work with interfaith and other partners within their communities to advocate for and work to implement climate change solutions.”